

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	iii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b> .....	iv
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	vi
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1-1
1.1 ORIGIN OF THE MBSS .....	1-1
1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE MBSS .....	1-1
1.3 THE 1995-1997 STATEWIDE MBSS REPORT .....	1-3
1.4 ROADMAP TO THIS REPORT .....	1-3
<b>2 METHODS</b> .....	2-1
2.1 MBSS STUDY DESIGN .....	2-1
2.2 DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA .....	2-5
2.3 FIELD AND LABORATORY METHODS .....	2-5
2.3.1 Data Collection and Measurement .....	2-7
2.3.2 Data Management .....	2-9
2.3.3 QA/QC for Field Sampling .....	2-12
2.4 STATISTICAL METHODS .....	2-12
2.4.1 Estimates Based on Stratified Random Sampling .....	2-12
2.4.2 Estimates Based on Simple Random Sampling .....	2-13
2.4.3 Estimation of Biological Characteristics .....	2-13
2.5 CAPTURE EFFICIENCY ADJUSTMENT FOR FISH POPULATION ESTIMATES .....	2-14
2.6 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS .....	2-14
<b>3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING</b> .....	3-1
3.1 GEOLOGIC HISTORY .....	3-1
3.1.1 Evolution of Drainage Patterns .....	3-1
3.1.2 Climatic Changes .....	3-1
3.2 CLIMATE .....	3-1
3.2.1 Precipitation .....	3-1
3.2.2 Temperature .....	3-3
3.3 PHYSIOGRAPHY .....	3-3
3.3.1 Coastal Plain .....	3-3
3.3.2 Fall Line .....	3-3
3.3.3 Piedmont .....	3-3
3.3.4 Blue Ridge .....	3-5
3.3.5 Valley and Ridge .....	3-5
3.3.6 Appalachian Plateau .....	3-5
3.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS .....	3-5
3.4.1 Geology .....	3-5
3.4.2 Soils .....	3-9
3.5 HUMAN INFLUENCES .....	3-9
3.5.1 Forests and Forest Practices .....	3-9
3.5.2 Agriculture and Urbanization .....	3-9
3.5.3 Fur Trade .....	3-12
3.5.4 Mining .....	3-12

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont'd)

	Page
3.5.5 Air Impacts .....	3-12
3.5.6 Water Impacts .....	3-12
3.5.7 Summary of Human Influences .....	3-16
<b>4 CHARACTERIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 FISH .....	4-1
4.1.1 Fish Abundance, Biomass, and Species Richness .....	4-1
4.1.2 Gamefish .....	4-9
4.1.3 Individual Health of Fish .....	4-17
4.2 BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATES .....	4-38
4.3 AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES .....	4-38
4.4 MUSSELS .....	4-38
4.5 AQUATIC VEGETATION .....	4-47
<b>5 ASSESSMENT OF BIOLOGICAL CONDITION .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE INDEX OF BIOTIC INTEGRITY .....	5-1
5.2 INTERPRETING THE INDEX OF BIOTIC INTEGRITY .....	5-1
5.2.1 Special Considerations in Interpreting IBI Scores .....	5-9
5.3 BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR RESULTS .....	5-9
5.3.1 Fish IBI Results .....	5-9
5.3.2 Benthic IBI Results .....	5-10
5.3.3 The Hilsenhoff Biotic Index .....	5-21
5.4 COMPARISON OF FISH AND BENTHIC ASSESSMENTS .....	5-21
<b>6 ACIDIFICATION .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1 BACKGROUND .....	6-1
6.2 EXTENT OF THE ACIDIFICATION PROBLEM .....	6-2
6.2.1 Low pH .....	6-2
6.2.2 Low Acid Neutralizing Capacity .....	6-2
6.3 SOURCES OF ACIDITY .....	6-5
6.4 COMPARISON WITH THE 1987 MARYLAND SYNOPTIC STREAM CHEMISTRY SURVEY .....	6-15
6.5 ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN ACIDIFICATION AND BIOLOGICAL CONDITION .....	6-15
6.6 FISH TOLERANCE TO LOW PH CONDITIONS .....	6-21
6.7 FISH ABUNDANCE UNDER ACIDIFIED OR ACID-SENSITIVE CONDITIONS .....	6-21
<b>7 PHYSICAL HABITAT .....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
7.1 BACKGROUND .....	7-1
7.2 EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL HABITAT DEGRADATION USING INDIVIDUAL PARAMETERS ..	7-2
7.2.1 Riparian Vegetation .....	7-2
7.2.2 Stream Alteration .....	7-2
7.2.3 Bank Erosion Potential .....	7-7
7.2.4 Instream Condition .....	7-7
7.2.5 Aesthetic Quality and Remoteness .....	7-15
7.2.6 Quantity of Available Physical Habitat .....	7-16
7.3 PHYSICAL HABITAT INDEX .....	7-24
7.3.1 Development of the Physical Habitat Index .....	7-24
7.3.2 Physical Habitat Index Results .....	7-25

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont'd)

	Page
7.4 ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN PHYSICAL HABITAT DEGRADATION AND BIOLOGICAL CONDITION .....	7-25
7.5 RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL PHYSICAL HABITAT FACTORS AND BIOTA .....	7-30
<b>8 NUTRIENTS .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
8.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON NUTRIENTS .....	8-1
8.2 RESULTS OF NUTRIENT ASSESSMENT .....	8-1
8.3 COMPARISON WITH CORE/TREND MONITORING DATA .....	8-2
<b>9 WATERSHED LAND USE .....</b>	<b>9-1</b>
9.1 BACKGROUND .....	9-1
9.2 CHARACTERIZATION OF LAND USE IN UPSTREAM CATCHMENTS .....	9-2
9.3 EXAMPLES OF LAND USE EFFECTS ON STREAM WATER QUALITY .....	9-2
9.4 ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN LAND USE AND ECOLOGICAL INDICATORS .....	9-2
9.4.1 Associations Between Land Use and the Fish IBI .....	9-3
9.4.2 Associations Between Land Use and the Benthic Macroinvertebrate IBI .....	9-4
9.4.3 Associations Between Land Use and the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index .....	9-4
9.4.4 Associations Between Land Use and Aquatic Salamanders .....	9-5
9.4.5 Associations Between Land Use and the Physical Habitat Index .....	9-6
9.5 IMPLICATIONS .....	9-6
<b>10 INTERANNUAL VARIABILITY .....</b>	<b>10-1</b>
10.1 VARIABILITY OF PRECIPITATION .....	10-1
10.2 COMPARISON OF RESULTS FOR BASINS SAMPLED IN MULTIPLE YEARS .....	10-1
10.3 COMPARISON OF SELECTED BIOLOGICAL AND WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR BASINS SAMPLED IN MULTIPLE YEARS .....	10-1
<b>11 RELATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STRESSORS AND THEIR CUMULATIVE IMPACT .....</b>	<b>11-1</b>
11.1 EXTENT OF OCCURRENCE OF MAJOR STRESSORS .....	11-1
11.2 EFFECTS OF MULTIPLE STRESSORS ON IBIs .....	11-6
11.3 INFLUENCE OF STRESSORS AT INDIVIDUAL SITES .....	11-8
<b>12 BIODIVERSITY .....</b>	<b>12-1</b>
12.1 SPECIES RICHNESS AND DISTRIBUTION .....	12-1
12.2 RARE SPECIES .....	12-13
12.3 VULNERABLE FISH POPULATIONS .....	12-17
12.4 FISH HYBRIDS .....	12-19
12.5 NON-NATIVE SPECIES .....	12-19
12.6 NATURAL STREAM ECOSYSTEMS .....	12-24
<b>13 IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND POLICY .....</b>	<b>13-1</b>
13.1 ANSWERS TO MBSS MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS .....	13-1
13.1.1 Physical Characteristics .....	13-1
13.1.2 Water Chemistry .....	13-2
13.1.3 Biological Resources .....	13-3
13.1.4 Landscape Characteristics .....	13-5
13.1.5 Resource-stressor Associations .....	13-5
13.1.6 Resource-landscape associations .....	13-6
13.1.7 New Questions .....	13-6

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont'd)

	Page
13.2 RELEVANCE TO CURRENT MANAGEMENT AND POLICY INITIATIVES .....	13-7
13.2.1 Inventory of Maryland's Aquatic Resources .....	13-7
13.2.2 Current Condition of Maryland's Streams .....	13-8
13.2.3 Trends in the Condition of Maryland's Streams .....	13-9
13.2.4 Impacts of Human Activities on Maryland's Streams .....	13-9
13.2.5 Targeting Restoration Efforts within Maryland .....	13-10
<b>14 FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE MBSS .....</b>	<b>14-1</b>
14.1 TRENDS DETECTION .....	14-1
14.2 ENHANCED SAMPLE FRAME FOR ALL STREAMS .....	14-1
14.3 FINER GEOGRAPHIC SCALES .....	14-2
14.4 BETTER STRESSOR CHARACTERIZATION .....	14-2
14.5 Refined AND NEW INDICATORS .....	14-3
14.6 IMPROVED CHARACTERIZATION OF BIODIVERSITY .....	14-3
<b>15 REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>15-1</b>

## APPENDICES

A LIST OF MBSS MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS .....	A-1
B NUMBER OF STREAM MILES AND NUMBER OF SITES SAMPLED .....	B-1
C LISTS OF COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAMES FOR ALL TAXA .....	C-1
D INTERANNUAL VARIABILITY DATA .....	D-1
E DATA SUMMARY TABLES FOR HABITAT, WATER CHEMISTRY, AND FISH POPULATIONS ...	E-1
F STRESSOR MATRIX .....	F-1
G WATERSHEDS, MAJOR RIVER BASINS, AND TRIBUTARY STRATEGIES BASINS IN MARYLAND .....	G-1
H COUNTYWIDE AND WATERSHED-SCALE INDICATOR ESTIMATES .....	H-1